



Socialists in Public Office

By **EDWIN J. BROWN,**

There are 34 Socialist mayors of cities, 250 Socialist aldermen or councilmen of cities, and 106 other municipal officials, including attorneys, treasurers, comptrollers, auditors, trustees, assessors, etc., in the United States.

SOCIALISTS ARE HONEST

There never has been a charge of graft or of dishonesty made against a Socialist official in the United States; no boodle, no thievery—absolutely honest because the Socialists are pledged to the abolition of exploitation and spoliation in any form.

In Butte City the city treasurer was made to turn over a \$6,000 holdout on the city. In Milwaukee 254 indictments against Republican and Democrat officials is on record for bribery, grafting, stealing and petty larceny.

In Schenectady, we knocked the graft out of street paving and reduced the cost from \$2.16 per square yard to \$1.15, and in Milwaukee we saved the city over a quarter of a million dollars on this item alone.

IMPROVED CONDITION OF LABOR

Labor produces all wealth, our culture, our science, and for all we have and are we are indebted to labor. Therefore in O'Fallon, Ill., we Socialists raised the wages of city employes 15 per cent. In Milwaukee we raised the wages of 580 common laborers from \$1.75 to \$2 per day. In Schenectady, N. Y., we raised wages from \$1.75 to \$2.25 per day. In all cities and at all times we advocate the eight-hour day. And we demand the union label on all city printing and demand union made goods.

We settle strikes by keeping order and restraining strikebreakers and hired thugs from inciting trouble and then making false charges against those on strike.

When special privilege and organized greed are compelled to fight labor a square, open fight, labor always wins.

In St. Marys, Ohio, we reduced the hours from 12 to 8 and raised the firemen's wages from \$50 to \$60 per month, and other city employes in proportion.

In Haverhill, Mass., in 1898 we introduced the principle of direct employment of labor by the city on all public work, with the eight-hour day at union wages. In Schenectady we raised the teachers' wages. In Milwaukee we secured extra off days for the police, and strictly enforced the factory inspection law by compelling 55 improved ventilators, 18 suction hoods to draw away gas, smoke and acid fumes, 54 new toilets installed, 9 repaired, 30 privy vaults abolished, 65 emery wheels were protected, 50 bakeries were changed, and 133 sweat shops ventilated and made sanitary by us within a few months after we took office.

PUBLIC HEALTH

In Milwaukee alone under the Socialists we had 408 fewer cases of scarlet fever, 324 of diphtheria, 1,044 of typhoid, 1,293 of measles, 131 of tuberculosis, the first year, under rigid food inspection and sanitary measures enforced.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS BETTER

The records will show that a city's financial credit always improves under the Socialists. The bonds of Milwaukee sold several points better under the Socialists than ever before. In Butte City, Mont., the Socialists found the city about \$1,000,000 in debt and put the city on a sound financial basis. In Milwaukee the Socialists found the city with a \$216,000 deficit and left it with a substantial surplus. At Berkeley the surplus was \$48,000 more at the end of the first term of the Socialists than it had been previously.

WE MAKE PRIVILEGE PAY ITS TAXES

In Schenectady we boosted the big corporation assessments \$2,600,000. In Anaconda, Mont., the Socialist assessor raised the assessment of the Amalgamated Copper Company from six millions to sixteen millions and doubled the assessment on the railroads.

SOCIALISTS BRING CORPORATIONS TO TIME

At Haverhill, Mass., we forced the gas company to reduce the price of gas from \$1.40 to 80 cents per thousand feet and started the fight to compel railroads to raise their tracks. In St. Marys we adjusted water rates and reduced the cost of electricity 25 per cent. In Milwaukee we compelled the street car company to sprinkle the streets and pave and repair them between their tracks; use air brakes and install lifting jacks; reduced the charge for electricity; compelled the steam roads to do their share of paving; stopped franchise grabbing, and protected labor and the peoples rights.

SOCIALISTS NATURAL EDUCATORS

In Schenectady, N. Y., we built five up-to-date school houses, raised the teachers' wages, furnished free books and school supplies, and established a dental clinic.

In Milwaukee the Socialists established a bureau of efficiency and economy for the city, and for the first time gave the city an invoice of its property and conducted an exposition for the education of citizens in municipal work.

In Naugatuck, Conn., we raised the wages of both teachers and school employees and started a campaign for school teachers' pensions.

The bogy man is out and after Seattle, and if the Socialists are elected and the grafters and boodlers are restrained from robbing the people our credit will suffer, says the bogy man.

When John E. Rogers was elected governor of Washington in 1896 calamity howlers said that if Rogers was elected the state's credit would be ruined. But our state warrants sold for 88 cents on the dollar before and they went to 100 soon after he was elected.

Every candidate except the Socialists represent exploitation of the people by the master of corporations. The Socialists represent the principle of the people owning the public service corporations.

Other candidates will talk about our city owning a street railway, a gas plant, or a telephone system and our light, but they defeat the people's will after election because they believe in exploiting the people. We Socialists are the natural heir to public office to give the people the relief they must have and the natural enemy of the institutions that exploit the people.

The Socialist candidates are: For mayor, Judge Richard Winsor; for corporation counsel, Edwin J. Brown; for comptroller, W. H. Hazen; for treasurer, George W. Scott; for council, two-year term, E. M. Weisterfield and C. D. Raymer; for council, three-year term, Cas Hermit and C. J. Jacobs.

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